

1915

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Knox College

Toronto



Spallholz & Co.

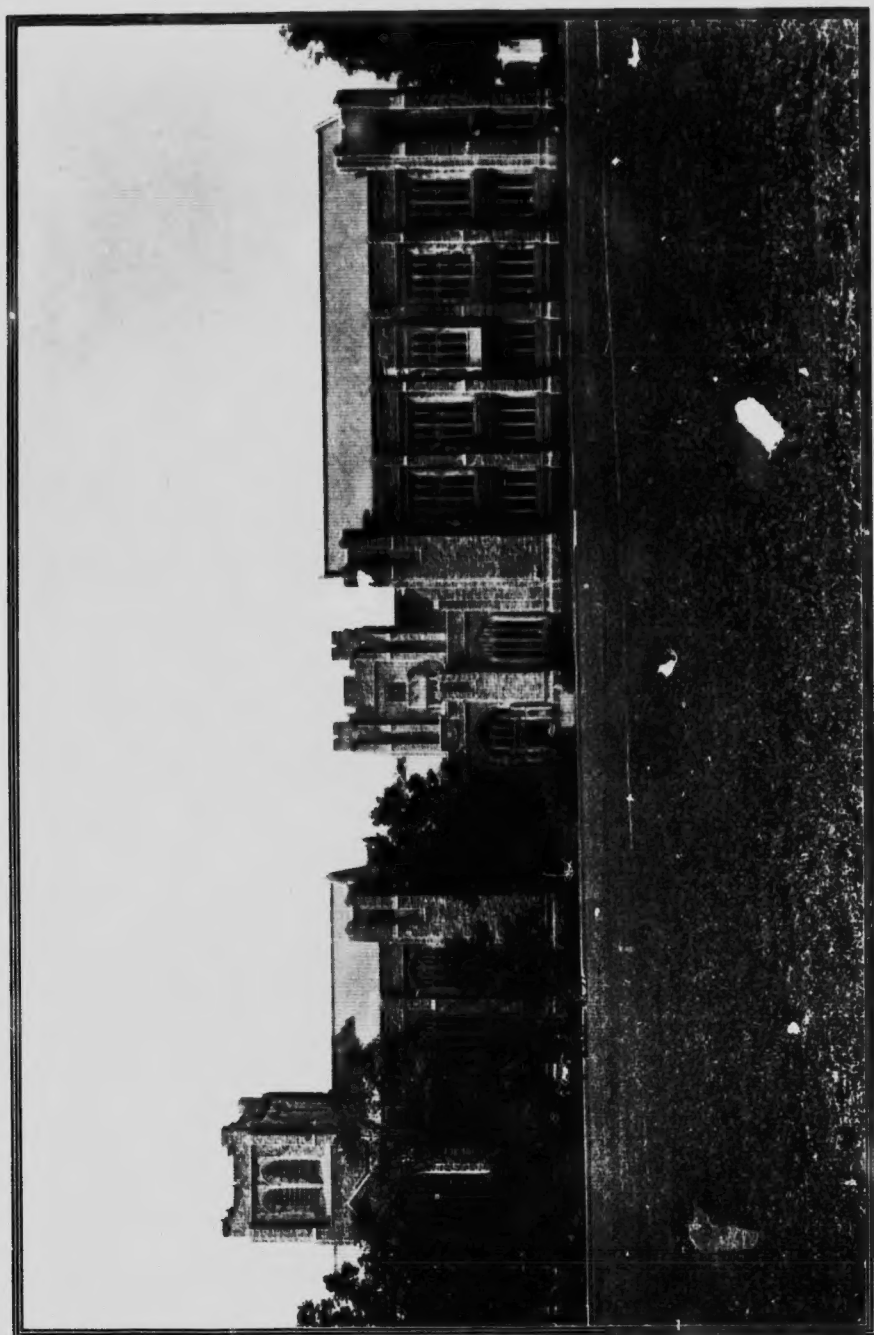
Chicago

THE NEW HOME OF
KNOX COLLEGE

on the University Campus and St. George Street



TORONTO, CANADA



The Buildings as seen from the University Campus—St. George Street Tower in the distance over Entrance to Quadrangle.

HISTORICAL SKETCH



OME ten years ago the Board of Management of Knox College were faced with this alternative—the complete renovation of the old College building, which had fallen into decay, and the erection of a new fire-proof building immediately to the north of the old building, at a cost of \$150,000, or the erection of an entirely new group of buildings on the University Campus at a cost to the Church of \$400,000.

After much consideration the Board decided that Spadina Crescent, surrounded by street car lines and rapidly becoming a noisy business centre, was no longer a suitable site for College purposes, and that improvements or additions to the old building would at best be a temporary solution of the problem. Moreover the Board felt the desirability of securing a new site while there was property still available in the immediate vicinity of University College, with which Knox is federated, and where her students receive their Arts training.

In the good Providence of God four properties were secured on St. George Street, running through to the front campus of the University, comprising about two acres of ground, and giving a double frontage.

A Building Committee was appointed, with Mr. J. K. Macdonald as chairman, under whose wise and enthusiastic leadership the work of securing new and suitable buildings for Knox College has been carried on from its inception to its completion.

In 1909 the canvass for the Building Fund was begun in the City of Toronto, and within a year \$150,000 was subscribed. Four years later an additional \$54,000 was subscribed. From time to time during the years since 1908, the Principal and Dr. John Gray, assisted by many of the Alumni, have canvassed congregations in



Front Doorway, opening out upon the University Grounds.

Central and Western Ontario as the way was opened—some hundreds in all, with the result that up to the present time \$204,000 has been subscribed. It is of interest to note that, when the Building Committee first planned the campaign, they estimated that half the amount needed should come from the City of Toronto and half from the Province. To-day, in even figures, the City of Toronto has subscribed \$204,000 and the Province \$204,000. In addition \$25,000 was sent by Lord Strathcona and \$10,000 by Mrs. William Clark, of Scotland, making a total subscription of \$443,000, of which \$345,186 has been paid to the Treasurer. There have been few large gifts, but thousands of people throughout Toronto and the Province of Ontario have a part ownership in the new Knox College.

In 1910 a competition was held for the selection of an architect. The Board of Assessors consisted of Frank Darling, Esq., of the firm of Darling & Pearson, Architects, Toronto; Percy Nobbs, Esq., Professor of Architecture, McGill University, Montreal; and five members of the Building Committee. The assessors were unanimous in awarding first place to a set of plans prepared by Messrs. Chapman & McGiffin, Architects, Toronto, and this firm has carried through the work, giving to Knox College buildings that are unsurpassed anywhere. The illustrations in this booklet give but a faint idea of the simplicity, beauty and effectiveness of the whole group, in which every requirement of the College has been provided for in the most adequate manner.

The corner stone was laid in October, 1912, and now, three years later, September 29th, 1915, the completed buildings are dedicated to the service of Christ and His Church.

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE

THE College property consists of a frontage on St. George Street of about 350 feet running through 234 feet to the University lawn. On the northern part of this ground when purchased was a fine, large, brick residence. This has been so divided and adapted as to form a suitable residence for the Principal and a dormitory for twenty students.

The new buildings are of Credit Valley grey sandstone, trimmed with Indiana limestone; are of fireproof construction throughout, and so planned as to form a group of connected buildings around three sides of a quadrangle, each serving a different function in the community life of the College—an arrangement which has given such charm to the English Colleges at Cambridge and Oxford.

The style of architecture chosen is Collegiate Gothic, as that has more of the academic and ecclesiastical character, and lends itself more readily to lighting requirements.

The different parts are so arranged as to fall into two distinct groups, one comprising the academic rooms, library and chapel, and the other the dormitories, living rooms and dining hall. The academic portion of the building is 285 feet long from north to south, facing the west side of the University lawn, which at present is bounded on the north by the old University College, on the east by the University Library, and on the south by the open approach and the Convocation Hall. The residential portion of the building extends along St. George Street a distance of 224 feet. The space between these two buildings forms a quadrangle about 200 feet long by 100 feet wide, bounded on the south by the extension of the dormitories and on the north by the Principal's residence, where space is left for future extensions.

The Entrance Hall

THE building facing the University lawn is practically divided into two. The central part between the Library and the Chapel drops to a lower elevation with the appearance of a gateway to the quadrangle. Entering the door, one stands in a large central hall, with vaulted gothic roof and fan leaf tracery. The exquisite proportions, the broad marble steps to right and left, the gallery under the archways, the long vista of the cloister leading to the residential buildings,

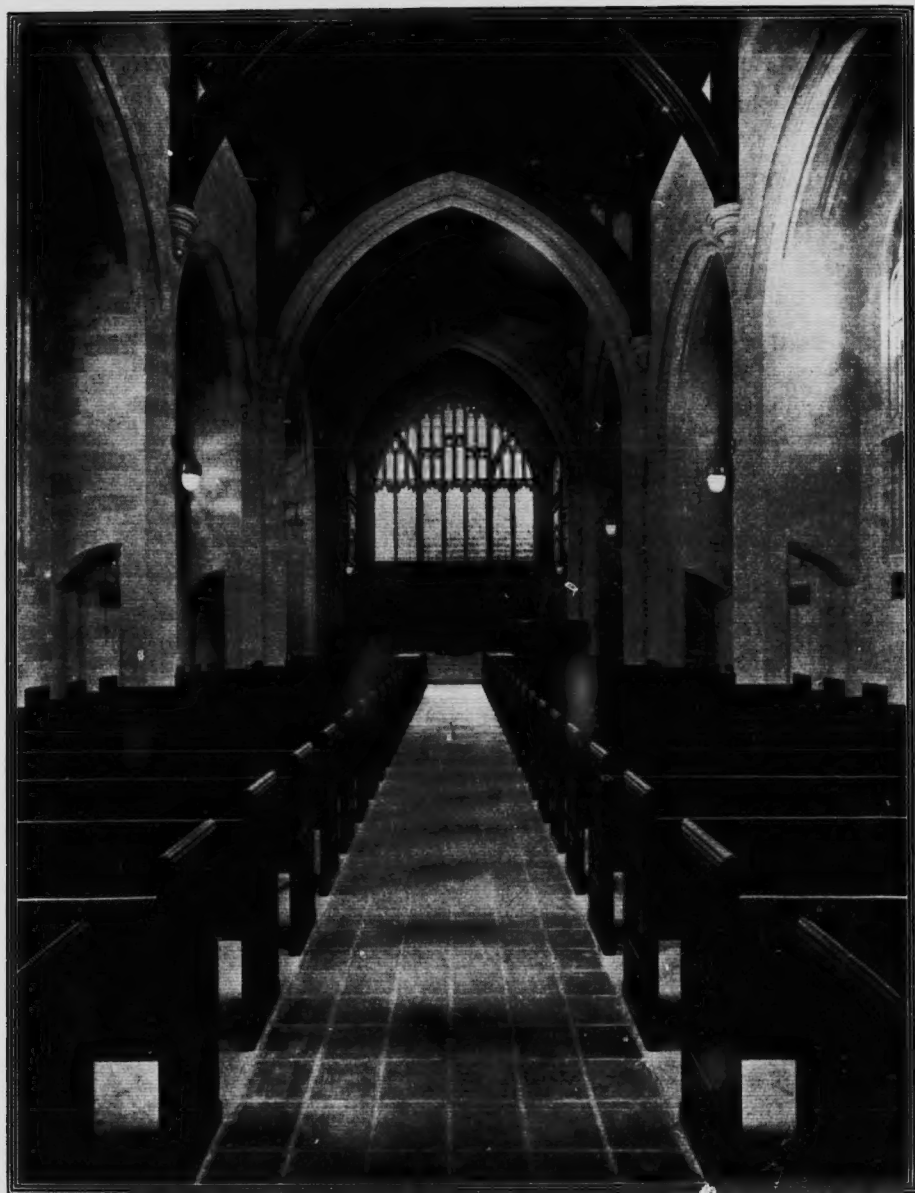


"Vaulted Gothic Roof and Fan-Leaf Tracery" of the Entrance Hall.

the suggestive glimpses through glazed tracery of the Library interior to the north and of the Chapel to the south, combine to make this the focal point and beauty spot of the whole group of buildings.

The Chapel

ON the south side of this Entrance Hall is the beautiful gothic Chapel with gymnasium beneath. The pulpit, with its significant carving, is in honor of Margaret Goldie Caven, wife of the late Principal Caven, a true friend of Knox College students for more than a third of a century. It is the gift of her daughters. The carved chair and communion table are the gift of John Ross Robertson, Esq., and have been made of oak beams taken from the old Crown Court Presbyterian Church, London, England, the church of the famous Dr. Cumming. The fine organ and all the woodwork of the Chapel are the gift of Dr. J. A. Macdonald and friends outside the Province whom he has interested.



Interior of "The Beautiful Gothic Chapel."



"The Monumental Room of the College—ninety feet long by forty feet wide."

The Library

TO the north is the Library, with six lecture rooms below, erected in memory of the late Principal, and known as the Caven Library. There is accommodation in the stack room for 75,000 volumes and shelves for many more in the great reading room. The Reading Room, set apart for study and research, is the monumental room of the whole College, 90 feet long by 40 feet wide, running up 30 feet into the massive oak roof. No students were ever provided with better facilities for study than are to be at the disposal of the students of Knox. This room has been furnished by the Women's Association of St. James Square Presbyterian Church, Toronto, as a token of respect for the great and good man who during so many years was Principal of Knox College and a member of this congregation.



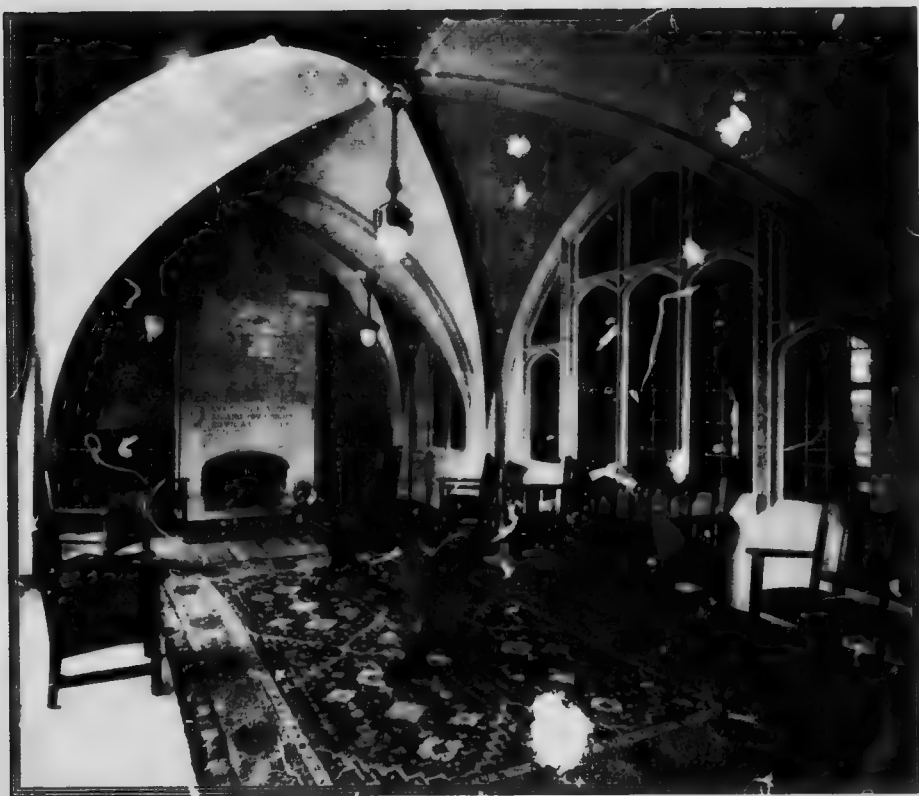
"The Long Vista of the Cloister."

The Cloister

THERE is a cloister traversing the quadrangle so as to obtain protected communication from the academic portion to the residence portion of the building. One storey in height, it does not interfere with the wide, open and attractive impression of the quadrangle, which can be appreciated through the traceried windows on either side.

The Tower

WESTWARD through the cloister, which crosses the quadrangle, is the vaulted tower entrance way from St. George Street, with a broad flight of stairs leading up to the students' common room and the dining room to the north. Above the common room are reading rooms for students, and above these again in the top of the tower, isolated from the rest of the building, is a

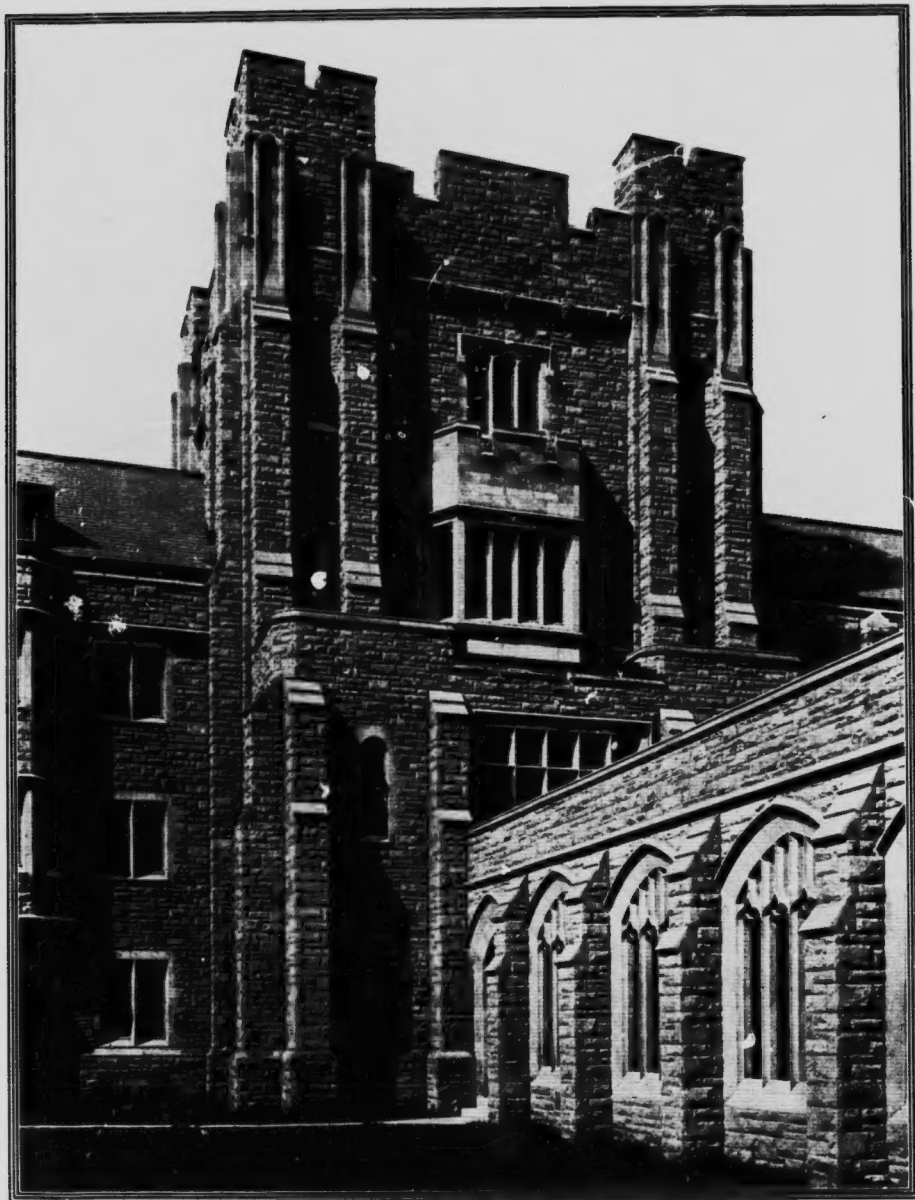


The Students' Common Room—A Quaint Bit of the Vaulted Tower Entrance Way.

miniature hospital with two small wards, two single rooms, two bath rooms, nurse's room and pantry.

The Dining Hall

ALL of the building north of the tower is devoted to the commissariat. In the basement are the kitchen and storerooms. One floor above are the rooms for the matron and servants. Above this again is the dining hall, running up into the oak-beamed roof, with high gothic windows and heavy oak wainscoting. The entrance to the dining hall is from the stair landing in the great tower. At the tables 160 students can be comfortably accommodated. The ladies of Bloor Street Presbyterian Church, Toronto, have provided an ample supply of fine linen into which the College crest is woven as the special design. The ladies of Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, have provided the dishes and glassware, and the



"Westward through the Cloister is the Tower."

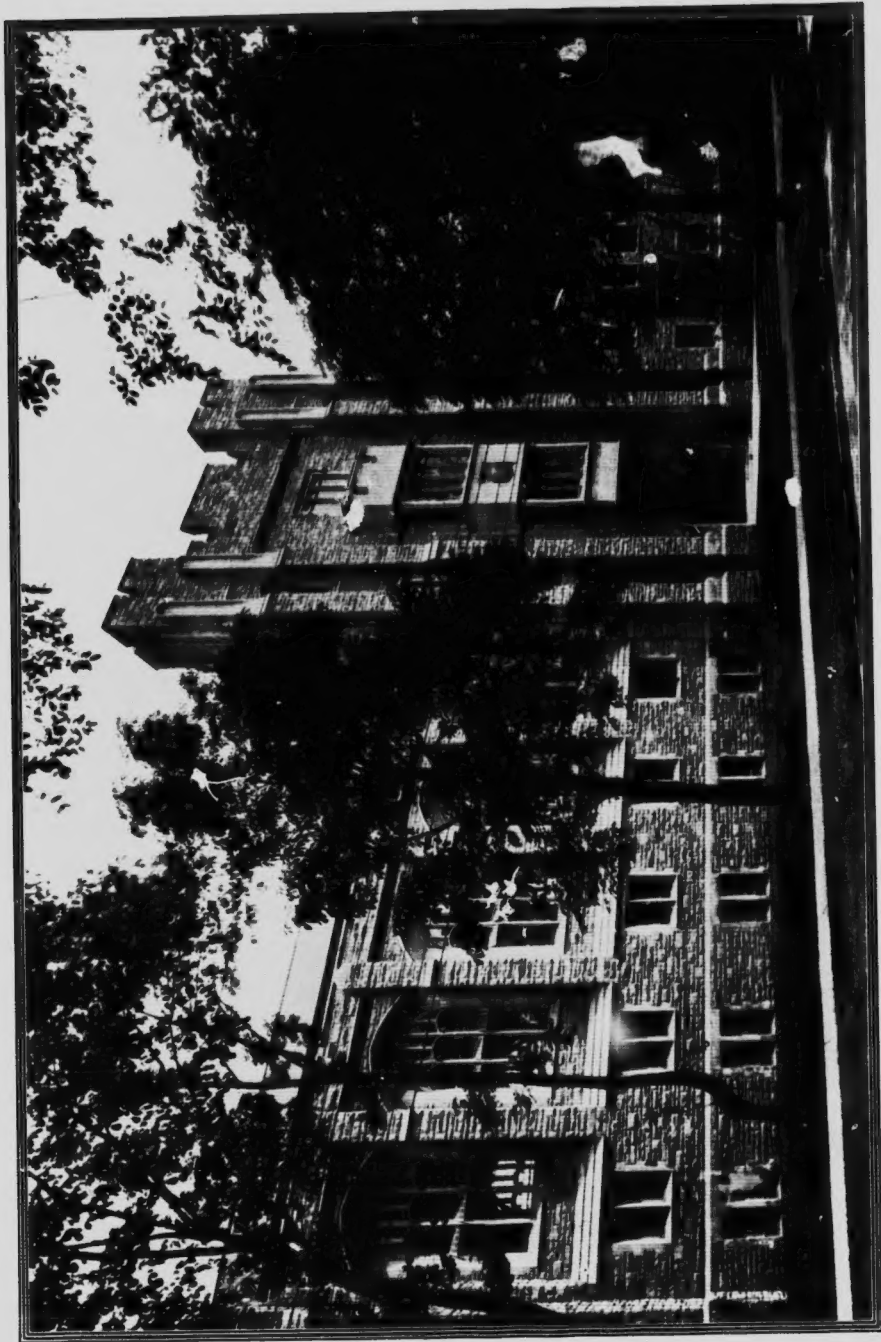


A Corner of the Quadrangle—showing part of East House and Chapel.

ladies of Rosedale Presbyterian Church, Toronto, are to furnish the silver and cutlery.

The Dormitories

RUNNING south from the central tower and all along the southern side of the quadrangle to the Chapel are the dormitory buildings known as West House, Centre House, East House, containing accommodation for 104 students, with parlors and guest rooms. Each student has a room which is furnished as bedroom and study. A number of Ladies' Associations, Young People's Societies and individuals have furnished rooms at a cost of \$100 each, but a majority of the rooms are not yet provided for, so that any who wish to share in this good work may still have a room in the building that is specially their own.



Dining Hall and Tower, from St. George Street.

The Cost of Site and Buildings

AN important part of the site has been granted by the University. The remainder of the property, including the fine large house to the north, which is being used as part of the College buildings, cost \$100,000. The buildings, including \$10,000 for the library stacks, have cost \$570,000. The complete furnishing of this immense group of buildings in all their parts, including the woodwork of the Chapel, has been provided for the remarkably small sum of \$25,000. A separate Furnishing Fund has been started. To meet the cost of land and buildings the Committee have a net amount of \$220,000 from the sale of the old property and \$325,000 from contributions (over and above all cost of canvass, commissions, printing, office, etc.). This leaves \$125,000 still to be secured. While half of this amount may reasonably be expected from unpaid subscriptions, it is evident that there is still need for liberality on the part of friends of the College. The annual revenue barely serves to meet the running expenses, leaving no margin for interest charges, and the College greatly needs that those who believe in its work, who see the value of the present site and the present equipment, and who have not yet contributed to the Building Fund, should hasten to enter the lists and do their "bit." The next few years will inevitably be years of financial strain for Knox, and the appeal for continued and increasing support is made with all confidence.